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Farmer Cooperative Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.
October 1958

CORRECTION

Enclosed is a corrected copy of FCS General Report 51. You may discard the other copy you have received. You will notice the following changes in the new report:

Corrected count on number of locker plants in Georgia from 110 to 74. This reduces total count from 9,647 to 9,611 plants. Also Minnesota with 602 plants should be listed in 3rd place rather than Wisconsin with 596.

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE
DIRECTOR

FROZEN FOOD LOCKER PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES
Twenty-first Annual Count, January 1958

By
L. B. Mann
Frozen Food Locker Branch

Frozen food locker plants operating in the United States in January 1958 totaled 9,647. This is a drop of 283 plants below last year. Iowa again led with 708 plants, Washington came second with 626, and Minnesota third with 602. California, Washington, Michigan, and Illinois registered the greatest decline in number of plants.

Locker plant count by States, January 1958¹

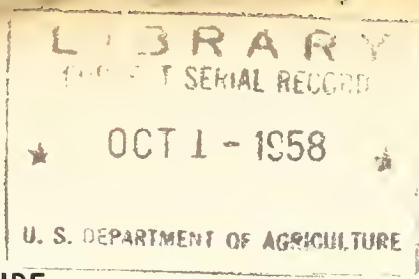
Alabama	58	Maine	19	Ohio	346
Arizona	40	Maryland	41	Oklahoma	223
Arkansas	85	Massachusetts	29	Oregon	453
California	411	Michigan	269	Pennsylvania	260
Connecticut	43	Minnesota	602	Rhode Island	4
Colorado	180	Mississippi	63	South Carolina	50
Delaware	11	Missouri	426	South Dakota	257
Florida	44	Montana	203	Tennessee	90
Georgia	74	Nebraska	414	Texas	454
Idaho	155	Nevada	15	Utah	122
Illinois	472	New Hampshire	15	Vermont	39
Indiana	296	New Jersey	48	Virginia	65
Iowa	708	New Mexico	43	Washington	626
Kansas	514	New York	201	West Virginia	17
Kentucky	74	North Carolina	92	Wisconsin	596
Louisiana	35	North Dakota	242	Wyoming	87
United States Total: 9,611 plants					

¹This count does not include several hundred "Freezer Food Plan" or "Provisioner" enterprises not operated in connection with locker plants.

The frozen food locker industry is continuing to change in the nature and scope of its activities. It is moving from custom processing and locker rental services toward commercial processing and merchandising.

Note: Appreciation is expressed to officials of State Departments of Agriculture, State Extension Service, the National Institute of Locker and Freezer Provisioners, and State locker associations for their cooperation in providing information to Farmer Cooperative Service.

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PURCHASING DIVISION
FARMER COOPERATIVE SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GENERAL REPORT 51
AUGUST 1958

FROZEN FOOD LOCKER PLANTS IN THE UNITED STATES
Twenty-first Annual Count, January 1958

By
L. B. Mann
Frozen Food Locker Branch

Frozen food locker plants operating in the United States in January 1958 totaled 9,647. This is a drop of 247 plants below last year. Iowa again led with 708 plants, Washington came second with 626, and Wisconsin third with 596. California, Washington, Michigan, and Illinois registered the greatest decline in number of plants.

Locker plant count by States, January 1958¹

Alabama	58	Maine	19	Ohio	346
Arizona	40	Maryland	41	Oklahoma	223
Arkansas	85	Massachusetts	29	Oregon	453
California	411	Michigan	269	Pennsylvania	260
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Georgia	110 ⁷⁴	Nebraska	414	Texas	454
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United States Total: 9,647 plants					

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The frozen food locker industry is continuing to change in the nature and scope of its activities. It is moving from custom processing and locker rental services toward commercial processing and merchandising.

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The broadened activities include service to home freezer users, local institutions, and small retail stores.

While the number of plants has declined by about 2,000 since the peak year of 1951, the industry has added processing facilities, expanded slaughtering and processing, increased volume of food sold, and increased the number of patrons served.

Number of frozen food locker plants, 1938-1958

Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants	Year	Total plants
1938	1,269	1945	6,484	1952	11,427
1939	1,861	1946	8,025	1953	10,954
1940	2,870	1947	9,529	1954	10,854
1941	3,623	1948	10,617	1955	10,553
1942	4,323	1949	11,245	1956	10,344
1943	4,559	1950	11,569	1957	9,894
1944	5,282	1951	11,608	1958	9,647

In addition to locker plants, another type of plant becoming increasingly important in or near large towns and cities is the "Freezer Food Plan," or "Freezer Provisioners." Several hundred of these plants -- similar to locker plants except that they do not rent lockers -- process and sell frozen food in quantity lots to home freezer users. Most of them also sell freezers.

Net zero storage space in lockers and home freezers totaled over 150 million cubic feet in January 1958. This large zero storage space is capable of holding at one time about 4 1/2 billion pounds of perishable food. This new method of food storage enables consumers to purchase food in large quantities and to take advantage of seasonal price declines.

In this new method of food merchandising, locker and related freezing plants play an important role -- that of local processor and merchandiser of frozen food in wholesale quantities to locker and home freezer users.